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Copy # 1 Series A

14 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NRO Ex Com Meeting, 1130 hours, Tuesday, 12 January,
in Secretary Vance's office

PRESENT: Mr. McCone, Secretary Vance, General Carter,
Dr. Fubini, and Dr. McMillan

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2. This led Fubini into a discussion of drones and he indicated that an improvement package would be available in about six to eight months for the BLUESPRINGS drones which would increase its altitude to 60,000 feet as well as increasing its range and speed. He said that the drones cost [] each. It was agreed that the project for improvement of the BLUESPRINGS drones would proceed immediately, that we would make as many feasible improvements as possible and go as far as we can to increase performance in order to get above the fighters. It was also agreed that two more C-130's would be modified as mother ships. There was a short discussion of the status of TAGBOARD but no decisions were required or made.

3. Mr. McCone stated that he had just had a cursory glance at the FY 66 budget, and, while he could not comment in detail on it at this time, he wanted to make sure that there was nothing in the budget or in his review of it that indicated a frozen commitment on an item-by-item basis. He was assured by Secretary Vance and Dr. McMillan that the budget was very flexible and could be adjusted at any time. It

NRO review(s) completed

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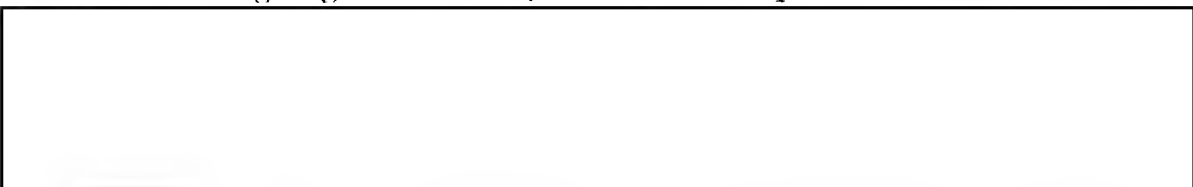
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25X1 4. Dr. McMillan stated, in response to Mr. McCone's question, that he had not looked at the [redacted] since November and he therefore could not report on developments, but that he was being briefed next week in full and would be able to report after that. He stated that the first full-scale review of the Program would occur the latter part of February and he contemplated reconvening the Land panel to make a formal review of the project. Mr. McCone and Mr. Vance both expressed their interest and stated that they intended to participate fully in this review.

25X1 5. Mr. McCone then brought up the trip to [redacted] on Monday to take a look at [redacted]. He stated that although the trip was somewhat premature it was necessary to go now since we were running out of money and the contractors would shortly have to start letting people off. Dr. Fubini stated that he hoped Mr. McCone would not mind if he (Fubini) asked a lot of technical questions at the briefing. Mr. McCone stated his desire that we insure that the resolution contemplated by Fubini is realistic and held promise for doing better in the future. He stated that if we could consolidate searching and spotting then we could save lots of money on the order of better than [redacted]. In response to Fubini's question as to what resolution the intelligence community was looking for, Mr. McCone stated that he did not know but that he hoped that the results of the Task Force studies, plus studies that were now going on at NPIC, would come up with a reasonable answer.

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25X1 get [redacted] resolution. These studies apparently were done in-house

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by McMillan and by [] staff for Greer. Questioning did not bring forth much very illuminating reasoning, and Mr. Vance's query, "What kind of man do you expect to get to do this?" finished the discussion. (NOTE: It takes [] to assemble and check out one of our cameras.)

ACTION: See if the NPIC studies presently going on can consider the results of resolution down to [] -- this at Fubini's request, and if clarification is needed, get it from Fubini.

6. I then asked Dr. McMillan if Greer was making studies of search systems along the lines of Fubini's, and he stated, "Yes, but rather modest -- on the order of [] Dr. McMillan stated that he felt his Steering Group and Task Force should review the [] project. I made no comment since Mr. McCone had already covered this in writing to Secretary Vance.

7. Dr. McMillan asked me to check on the [] since it was his understanding that the [] contracts with the Agency had not been modified to allow [] access for systems engineering. I stated that I would. (The present contracts which expire in March do include [] and will include them when renewed. The contracts which expire in August are being continued by letter which do not include [] but when formal contracts are negotiated will so include it. There has been no attempt, however, to exclude [] from information or access, the written contract is simply a formality. I asked Dr. Wheelon to inform Dr. McMillan accordingly.

8. There was no discussion of ARGON []

9. Dr. McMillan stated that he had reviewed the proposed [] agreement and thought it was generally all right but might need clarifying. I told him I would sign it and send it over and hoped we could get on with it in a hurry.

*

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

(* Dictated but not read.)

MSC:bec (14 Jan 65)

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Mr. ~~Weider~~.

General Carter asked that Mr. McCone see the attached before I make any distribution in case he wants to make any changes. You will note Gen. Carter has not seen it -- and I am wondering about one sentence in para 7 -- sixth line "contracts which expire in August--" should this maybe be - which expired in August???

Also, is following distribution okay?

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should copy go to NPIC via DD/I? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Should Mr. Reber get copy? ☐
Anyone else?

Bernie

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